

National Guard Victims' Counsel - East Region

NGB Special Victims' Counsel - East Region



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"Empowering victims of crime through independent advice and victim-centered legal representation"

What is a Special Victims' Counsel?

A National Guard Special Victim's Counsel (SVC) is a judge advocate with specialized training to provide legal representation to Air National Guard and Army National Guard sexual assault and domestic violence victims who are eligible for SVC assistance.

SVCs are authorized by law to enter into attorney-client relationships with the victim and advocate for the victim's rights and interests within the National Guard and other DoD agencies.

The scope of a SVC's representation is governed by State, Federal, and Service ethics rules as well as the Chief of National Guard Bureau SVC Instruction and Manual. The SVC Program Staff within the National Guard Bureau's Office of the Chief Counsel provides policy and functional oversight.

Who do SVCs represent?

An SVC's sole responsibility is to represent his or her client, the victim. Regional SVCs are removed from the command and supervisory chains that govern the State National Guard Judge Advocates to ensure zealous and independent representation of their clients.

SVC services are available to:

- National Guard Members on T10 or T32 AGR/ADOS
- Retirees (entitled to retired or retainer pay or equivalent pay)
- National Guard Members in a T32 status (Inactive Duty Training, Drill Weekend, Annual Training, State Active Duty) if the offense was committed during a period in which the individual served on such status or if there is a nexus between the alleged offense and the NG member's military service pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1044e
- Immediate family members (dependents) of National Guard members and retirees who are eligible for legal assistance pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1044, Legal Assistance Program
- DoD civilian employees who are eligible for legal assistance pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1044

How do SVCs help victims of sexual assault and domestic violence?

- Provide confidential legal advice
- Protect their rights and privacy interests
- Advise them on the investigation and disposition process
- Advocate for them in military investigative interviews, hearings, boards, and courts-martial.

